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meetings in that regard I felt that perhaps we could try to do a couple things this session. And I would say that this may be an incremental process, but the bill was an effort to, number one, bring about some assurance that there would be a standard of quality of the programs that are offered, that there would be some definition about what offenses a pretrial diversion could be utilized for, and that there would be some clarification on what the fees that are charged could be used for or where those fees could be directed. With that, I introduced a bill. The Judiciary Committee held a hearing. They chose to amend the bill and I favor the amendment that will be described, and they advanced the bill as amended. So, with that, I'll conclude my opening, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Brashear, to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, thank you. Some background with regard to this issue, if you will, please. The issue of pretrial diversion and the programs for pretrial diversion for traffic offenses has been before your Judiciary Committee several times over recent years. Since I have served as the Chair, your committee has heard the following bills relating to it: LB 966 introduced in 1998 by Senator Schmitt and Senator Jensen; in 1999, LB 593 introduced by Senator Robak, and LB 565 introduced by Senator Schmitt; I introduced LB 352 last year; and this year Senator Bromm introduced LB 1303. In response to previous legislative efforts, the committee held interim study hearings in 1999 and 2000 that constituted the...a forum for the examination of the issue of diversion. The testimony from those hearings revealed considerable disparity in the way diversion programs are conducted among and between counties across the entirety of the state. Other issues were addressed, such as the lack of uniformity regarding the availability of safety courses, the costs of the courses and the content of the courses. After numerous hearings brought the same issues and the same problems relating to traffic diversion programs, your committee chose LB 1303 as the vehicle for prioritizing these issues and bringing them before you. The committee amendment furthers the purposes and the objectives of LB 1303 by making several changes. First of all, LB 1303, in